

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) reimbursement of state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens is critically important to California and its counties, including the County of Los Angeles. Far more undocumented criminal aliens are incarcerated in State prisons and county jails in California than in the entire Federal prison system. The State of California and its counties together receive nearly 40 percent of total SCAAP funding.

The President's proposed Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Budget, however, would eliminate SCAAP, which is funded at \$301 million in FFY 2005. Instead of eliminating SCAAP, program funding should be greatly increased in order to fully reimburse state and local criminal alien incarceration costs that result from the Federal government's inability to control our nation's borders. Without SCAAP reimbursement, such costs do not disappear. Instead, the State and County must pay for those costs by diverting scarce resources from other essential services, including law enforcement and homeland security. In Los Angeles County, it also means that the County's Sheriff cannot afford to jail as many criminals, resulting in the early release of many convicted inmates before they complete their entire sentences.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the President and California's Congressional delegation to urge them to support increased SCAAP funding to fully reimburse state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens.

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MDA:aplmc
SCAAP – 2-15-05

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